

ment for the purpose of making a study of the forage-crop problems of the Philippine Islands, left that detail on July 5 and started on an agricultural exploration for this office. His collections which are recorded here are only such as were made by him previous to leaving the Philippines. They include, among other forage grasses and grains, soft-seeded varieties of the grass known as Job's-tears (*Coix lachryma-jobi ma-yuen*), which Mr. Piper believes are promising as summer grain crops (No. 30715).

Of the plant material sent in by correspondents and through the American consuls the following are worthy of special attention: A strong, fruitful variety of the chayote (No. 30462), other varieties of which vine have been disappointing in our experiments because of their shy-bearing habits; roots of the white ginger from China (Nos. 30483 and 30592) that may demonstrate the possibility of ginger culture in this country; a wild species of *Persea* (No. 30494) from Panama which the avocado growers of Florida and California may be glad to try as a stock; the arayan from Mazatlan, Mexico (No. 30499), a rich, juicy, tropical fruit that deserves to be improved, as it represents one of a large number of tropical myrtles which have good edible fruits; plants of the Laranja da Terra (No. 30605), a variety or local strain of orange, which is used as a stock for the navel orange in Bahia, Brazil, where this orange is supposed to have originated; a collection of the remarkable soy beans of Manchuria (Nos. 30593 to 30601), the value of which for producing a paint oil and for use in the manufacture of human food has been recently so strongly emphasized; the sweet lime of Palestine (No. 30620) which, according to Mr. Aaron Aaronsohn, is preferred as a stock for the famous seedless Jaffa orange, because the trees require less irrigation and fruit earlier than the bitter orange; the Shibu kaki of Japan (No. 30678), a variety of persimmon which is not edible, but from which the remarkable waterproofing called "Kaki-no-shibu," a fermented product, is made; a new pine (No. 30688), which grows to a height of 200 feet and has cones 12 inches long, discovered by Mr. George Forrest in the Lichiang mountain range of western Yunnan; a lemon variety (No. 30737) from an altitude of 4,000 feet in the Himalayas, which is not injured by the snowfalls and rather severe frosts of that region; a shrubby fruit plant of the annona family (No. 30835) from British West Africa that is burned to the ground each year and may adapt itself to the annual freezes of Texas and northern Florida; *Sorbus torminalis* (No. 30892) from southern Russia, which is suggested by Mr. Theo. Kryshstofovich as a stock for the pear on account of its remarkable drought resistance; seeds from good fiber-bearing varieties of the New Zealand flax (Nos. 30831 and 30832) from Auckland; two species of passifloras from the Caucasus (Nos. 30902